History out of context

2/13/91

Roy strikes again! He finally has something positive to say about Israel and I still come away angry. Mr. Meachum devotes as much space to what he believes was vengefulness on the part of Ben Gurion more than 40 years ago as he grudgingly gives to faint praise for Shamir today.

If he insists on history lessons he owes it to his readers to put it in context. Forty years ago Israelis were victims also with the entire Arab world committed to their obliteration. Forty years ago Jordan was a Palestinian state and the then Hashemite king occupied the territory when his fellow Arab brothers in Saudi Arabia kicked him out and the British gave him Transjordan. Now Mr. Meachum knows this as well as I.

When the Jordanians occupied the West Bank from 1948 to 1967 we never heard demands for a Palestinian state nor were the occupants given free elections or the freedom of expression that has so captivated the media today. I shudder to think of a Palestinian state nine miles from Tel Aviv today. Saddam Hussein might have had a better launch position for his weapons and he wouldn't have hesitated to use them.

Does it not strike Mr. Meachum as slightly contradictory that the West Bank Palestinians for whom he has always expressed such compassion dance in the streets and cheer when Scud missiles hit Tel Aviv and, at the same time, demand of the Israeli government that they be given gas masks?

I support free elections for Palestinians only when the other 18 or more Arab countries grant their populations the same.

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